



Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 23, 2017, 7:30 pm Town Hall Annex, First Floor

Attendees: Elena Bartholomew (Park & Recreation), Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Kelsey Cowen, Teresa DeBenedictis (Public Works), Brian Kelder, Ann LeRoyer (Chair), John Pickle, Wendy Richter, Nat Strosberg (Planning), David White

Review/approve February 23 minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes and voted to approve the minutes with edits.

Public Land Management

It was stated that a first meeting had not yet been scheduled. Additionally, it was stated that many of the groups represented at the Open Space Committee meeting would also be represented at the land management meeting.

Open Space Committee Communications

There was discussion about how the Committee is working with Joan Roman (Public Information Officer with the Town) to collect data on the number of hits during 2016 on the Open Space Committee website and on the Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces app. It was stated that the Committee needs to follow-up with Ms. Roman to complete the effort.

Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015 – 2022) – Tracking Forms

Ms. LeRoyer mentioned that there are several locations in the Plan where Mill Brook-based actions are listed. She asked how these different actions could be organized. Ms. Richter stated that there are folders to organize the information. She also mentioned that coding, through the identification of letters and numbers in the Plan, would be used; this would be helpful for cross-referencing. Mr. Keldar stated that breaking down large, comprehensive projects ("umbrella" projects) into smaller, basic projects could be challenging, but he stated that consistency is key. Ms. LeRoyer emphasized that the Committee should identify several large projects that have multiple layers, and study how to break them down. It was also mentioned that methods would need to be devised to track projects over time, as Committee membership changes.

The Committee agreed that for the next meeting, members should consider which projects they would be interested in monitoring and should experiment with the system.

Take-A-Walk

The Committee recommended a final series of revisions for the East Arlington map. Mr. Strosberg stated that he would bring a revised version to the next meeting. The Committee then explored a street map of Arlington Heights and the surrounding area. Due to the size of the Heights and vicinity, it was suggested that there ultimately be two final maps. The Committee explored ways of connecting several landmarks, including Florence Avenue Park, Hibbert Street Playground, Poet's Corner, the Water Tower, Robbins Farm Park, Menotomy Rocks Park, and other points. It was agreed that Committee members would individually explore the Heights and then bring ideas for routes to the next meeting.

Picture Post

Committee members were asked to read Mr. Pickle's article and provide comments. Mr. Pickle stated that the picture post concept was first launched in Arlington and has since spread across the country.

CPA Projects

Ms. LeRoyer stated that the Finance Committee approved every project that was submitted.

Other News/Reports

As an update on Minuteman Bikeway 25th Anniversary Committee activities, Mr. Strosberg stated that Alan McClennen would be speaking at Common Ground in Arlington on the evening of May 22nd and that there would be an end-to-end bike ride (i.e., Bedford to Arlington) on September 23rd (rain date on the 24th).

Ms. LeRoyer mentioned that there would be a walking tour of the Old Schwamb Mill and Mill Brook on April 22nd, and cleanups of Wellington Park and Mill Brook on April 30th.